

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 EPA-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7407

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2348

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS REPORTEDLY CLOSE LEAD SMELTER FOR ENVIRON-
MENTAL REASONS

1. VISITING U.S. BUSINESSMAN ADVISED COMMATT FEBRUARY 18 THAT HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY SOVIET OFFICIALS THAT APPROPRIATE SOVIET AUTHORITIES (OTHERWISE UNIDENTIFIED) RECENTLY TOOK EXTREME STEP OF CLOSING MAJOR LEAD SMELTER DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. U.S. BUSINESSMAN SAID HIS SOVIET CONTACTS DESCRIBED THIS ACTION AS UNPARALLELED IN SOVIET EXPERIENCE. (COMMENT: ONLY SIMILAR CASE OF WHICH EMBASSY IS AWARE IS THAT OF LAKE BAIKAL PULP MILL WHICH WAS REPORTED TO HAVE TEMPORARILY STOPPED OPERATIONS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT POLLUTION CONTROLS. END COMMENT).

2. PERHAPS REFLECTING IN PART SOVIET PROBLEMS IN ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS ON OPERATIONS OF LEAD SMELTERS, U.S. BUSINESSMAN MENTIONED ABOVE REPORTED THAT HIS COMPANY HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL SALE OF EQUIPMENT FOR SECONDARY METAL PROCESSING, IN THIS CASE EQUIPMENT WHICH CAN REDUCE OLD AUTOMOBILE BATTERIES INTO COMPONENT PARTS (I.E. METALLIC LEAD, ACID ETC) WITH ABSOLUTELY NO POLLUTION. U.S. FIRM HAS ALSO AGREED TO HOLD SEMINAR ON ITS SECONDARY PROCESSING CAPABILITIES IN DONETSK DURING APRIL.

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STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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